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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: BROWN ET AL. )  
Serial No.: 09/780,316 ) Attorneys' Ref. P213560  
Filing Date: 02/09/2001 ) Art Unit: 2181  
Title: REMOTE GENERATION AND )  
DISTRIBUTION OF )  
COMMAND PROGRAMS FOR )  
PROGRAMMABLE DEVICES )

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

It is believed that no fee or charge is due at this time to maintain the application in full force and effect. However, if any such fee or charge is due, please charge this to Deposit Account No. 08-3260.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 6 and before "TECHNICAL FIELD", please insert the following paragraph:

--RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/181,577 filed 02/10/00, and is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/944,529 filed 10/07/97.--

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## REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted herewith to claim priority of an earlier-filed application.

If there is any matter which could be expedited by consultation with the Applicants' attorney, such would be welcome. The Applicants' attorney can be reached at the telephone number below.

Signed at Bellingham, County of Whatcom, State of Washington this 19th day of April, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWN ET AL.

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### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on date shown below.

4/19/2001  
Date

Susie Hubka  
(Print name of person mailing paper)  
Susie Hubka  
(Signature of person mailing paper)

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